

requested that the above restriction requirement be withdrawn.

This would appear to be a more efficient procedure as it would avoid duplicate examinations of such related subject matter by one or more Examiners.

However, by telephone with the Examiner on 5 February 2003, the undersigned made a provisional election, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, method claims 1 - 14. Accordingly, the undersigned affirms the above telephone election while traversing the need for same.

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action, dated 2-21-03, please amend the above identified application as follows:

In The Claims

Amend the following claims per the clean copy shown below, as subsequently explained by a marked-up version attached as Exhibit A.

A₁ 1. A method of forming uniform metal nitrides (MN) comprising contacting heated metal with iodine (I₂) vapor, at pressures below 760 Torr, to form a metal iodide (MI) and then contacting said MI with ammonia, at pressures below 760 Torr, to form said MN.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said MN is formed as a vapor and deposited on a seed or self-nucleates on a nearby surface.

A₂ 9. The method of claim 1 wherein

a) iodine is placed in a first boat upstream in an elongated first container below an inlet for H₂,

b) metal is placed in a second boat located downstream of said first boat in said first container, with an outlet thereof being positioned downstream of said second boat,